

REMARKS

The Decision on Appeal dated December 20, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in response thereto.

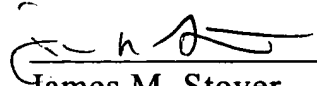
Claims 1-5, 7 and 9-16 were rejected in a Final Official Action dated September 27, 2001. Claims 1-5 and 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Culbert (U.S. Patent 5,838,968) in view of Sumimoto (U.S. Patent 5,552,070). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Culbert (U.S. Patent 5,838,968) in view of Sumimoto (U.S. Patent 5,552,070), and further in view of Hauser et al. (U.S. Patent 5,889,956).

The Decision on Appeal dated December 20, 2004, affirmed the decision of the Examiner rejecting claims 1-5, 7, 9-13 and 15, but reversed the decision of the Examiner rejecting claims 14 and 16.

The foregoing amendment requests the cancellation of claim 14. Independent claims 1, 11, 12 and 13 have been rewritten to include the limitations contained in cancelled claim 14. It is believed that each of independent claims 1, 11, 12 and 13, as amended to include the additional limitations recited in claim 14, now cancelled, is allowable over the cited references for the reasons set forth in the Decision on Appeal dated December 20, 2004. Claims 2-5, 7, 9, 10 and 15 depend from and further limit the invention recited in claim 1 and are therefore also believed allowable over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application, including claims 1-5, 7, 9-13, 15 and 16, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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